

**State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
750 Hearst Castle Rd
San Simeon, CA 93452

PROJECT TITLE: Rainrocks-Pitkins Curve Coastal Trail

LOCATION: Limekiln State Park

COUNTY: Monterey

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Rehabilitate and maintain parts of the Alvin Trail, Limekiln Trail, and Twitchell Road Trail in Limekiln State Park to reduce erosion and improve the trail tread; install new switchbacks, retaining walls, steps, signage, and upgrade existing facilities to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and meet requirements in the "California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines" in order to complete the California Coastal Trail segment in Limekiln State Park. The project will serve as a pedestrian bypass and mitigation for the Pitkin's Curve-Rainrocks highway bridge project.

Along the Alvin Trail, work will:

- Repair and reconstruct an approximately 2,200 linear foot section of existing Alvin Trail to a tread width of approximately 3 feet with 4 to 6 feet of horizontal vegetative trimming and pruning. Re-use excavated soils to repair and re-slope existing Alvin Trail to remove the slough and berm and re-establish the outslope.
- Abandon 3 existing switchbacks and restore to natural condition by brushing in and revegetating with California native plants.
- Construct an approximately 3,000 linear foot switchback connecting the lower reach of the Alvin Trail with the Limekiln Creek Trail along a more sustainable, gentler grade around the abandoned switchbacks. Excavate approximately 3,100 cubic feet of hard and soft rock along the re-route. Re-use excavated soils and rocks to backfill, outslope, and construct an approximately 450 long, 2 foot wide, retaining wall with average height of 4 feet.
- Abandon the existing connector and rehabilitate 300 feet of existing trail along the old alignment and construct 2 switchbacks to create a more sustainable, gentler grade and connection with Twitchell Road.
- Remove 3 dead trees and a clump of 4 to 6 small Bay trees.

Along Twitchell Road Trail, work will:

- Grade and outslope to reconstruct approximately 2,400 feet of existing Twitchell Flats Road and widen to 16 feet.
- Remove approximately 800 feet of existing berms and remove 3 existing water bars.
- Install 2 trail head parking spaces and signage at the entrance to Twitchell Road on Highway 1.

At the upper day use parking lot, work will:

- Install an ADA compliant van accessible parking space and compliant path of travel to the restroom
- Install ADA compliant van accessible signage and striping.

Along the Limekiln Trail, work will:

- Repair, recontour, and rehabilitate approximately 200 feet of existing trail to improve drainage and remove slough. Re-route approximately 155 feet of trail into the hillside on more stable ground.
- Reconstruct and install approximately 20 rock steps.
- Reconstruct an 8 foot long, 3 foot high wooden retaining wall using pressure treated fir and a 24 foot long, 3 foot high rock retaining wall using local rock salvaged from the site.
- Backfill burned out roots using approximately 250 cubic feet excavated soils re-used from the trail re-route.

Signage:

- Install two interpretive signs along the Coastal Trail route or at a trailhead to interpret the California Coastal Trail route in Limekiln State Beach.
- Install ADA compliant van accessible signage at the trailhead parking. All signs will be in compliance with ADA standards.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: San Luis Obispo Coast District

EXEMPT STATUS:

☒ Categorical Exemption Class: 3 & 4 Section: 15303 & 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; and public alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, except for forestry purposes; included as "trail repairs," "installation of fencing and signs," and "trail construction or realignment" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR § 15300.4.

CONTACT: Doug Barker, District Environmental Coordinator
San Luis Obispo Coast District

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Nicholas Franco, District Superintendent

DATE 11/15/11